



COMMANDER, NAVY REGION NORTHWEST

Sheila Murray, Environmental Public Affairs Officer
1100 Hunley Road, Silverdale, WA 98315-1100
Phone: (360) 396-4981 Cell: (360) 340-5398

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Release # 299-09

October 26, 2010

U.S. NAVY ANNOUNCES DECISION FOR TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN THE NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX

SILVERDALE, Wash. — The Department of the Navy (Navy) has announced its decision to implement its preferred alternative to continue to support and conduct current, emerging and future training and research, development, test and evaluation activities in the Northwest Training Range Complex (NWTRC) to achieve required levels of operational readiness.

After carefully weighing the operational and environmental consequences of the proposed action, as well as public comments on the environmental analysis, the Navy announced its decision to implement its preferred alternative, Alternative 2, via a Record of Decision (ROD) on Oct. 26, 2010. This decision allows the Navy to meet its statutory mission to deploy worldwide naval forces equipped and trained to meet existing and emerging threats and to enhance its ability to operate jointly with other components of the armed forces.

The ROD is the final step in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The ROD follows the completion of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) and thorough consideration of all public comments received throughout the NEPA process. The EIS/OEIS analyzed potential environmental effects of the Navy's ongoing and proposed activities within the NWTRC. The following resource areas were analyzed: geology and soils, air quality, hazardous materials, water resources, acoustic environment, marine plants and invertebrates, fish, sea turtles, marine mammals, birds, terrestrial biological resources, cultural resources, traffic, socioeconomics, environmental justice and protection of children, and public safety.

The Navy's environmental analysis included formal consultations with the National Marine Fisheries Service, a cooperating agency for the EIS/OEIS, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Public awareness and participation were integral components of this process. The Navy ensured that Native American Indian Tribes and Nations, federal agencies, state agencies, local entities, nongovernmental organizations and members of the public had the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Navy's analysis included in the Draft EIS/OEIS, as well as examine and consider environmental issues included in the Final EIS/OEIS. Native American Indian Tribes and Nations were invited to participate in Government-to-Government consultation.

The NWTRC includes ranges, operating areas and airspace that extends from the coast of Washington, Oregon and northern California to just beyond the Washington/Idaho border.

NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX 2-2-2

Under Alternative 2, the Navy will accommodate training activities currently conducted, increase training activities, accommodate changes in basing locations for ships, aircraft and personnel ("force structure changes"), and provide for range enhancements. The NWTRC will support an increase in most training activities, to include force structure changes associated with the introduction of new weapon systems, vessels and aircraft into the Fleet.

The ROD is available to the public. A copy of the ROD is available at: www.NWTRangeComplexEIS.com or can be viewed at the following information repositories:

Jefferson County Rural Library District
Port Hadlock, Wash.

Lincoln City Public Library
Lincoln City, Ore.

Kitsap Regional Library
Bremerton, Wash.

Newport Public Library
Newport, Ore.

Oak Harbor Public Library
Oak Harbor, Wash.

Port Orford Public Library
Port Orford, Ore.

Port Townsend Public Library
Port Townsend, Wash.

Seaside Public Library
Seaside, Ore.

Timberland Regional Library
Hoquiam, Wash.

Siuslaw Public Library District
Florence, Ore.

Astoria Public Library
Astoria, Ore.

Tillamook County Library
Tillamook, Ore.

Chetco Community Public Library
Brookings, Ore.

Waldport Public Library
Waldport, Ore.

Coos Bay Public Library
Coos Bay, Ore.

Humboldt County Library
Eureka, Calif.

To request a printed copy of the ROD, please write to:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Northwest
1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203
Silverdale, WA 98315-1101
Attn: Mrs. Kimberly Kler – NWTRC EIS

Visit the project website at www.NWTRangeComplexEIS.com for more information and complete documentation on the EIS/OEIS process related to this project.

For information on the Navy and other ongoing EIS projects in the Northwest region, please visit Navy Region Northwest at www.cnrc.navy.mil/cnrnw or contact Mrs. Sheila Murray, Environmental Public Affairs Officer, at 360-396-4981.